**Financial Assistance to Indian Women**

2542. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has finalized a scheme to provide financial assistance to Indian women, who have either been deserted or divorced by their overseas Indian spouses within two years of marriage;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the estimated number of such women who have been deserted; and

(d) the reasons for imposing two years restriction by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has launched a scheme for providing legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. A copy of the scheme is given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 2539 Part (a) to (c)]. As per provisions of the ameded scheme a women deserted or divorced by her overseas Indian spouse within 5 years of the marriage is entitled for benefit under the scheme. In case of *ex-parte* divorce, women divorced within 10 years of their marriage are entitled for the benefit.

The number of complaints received by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in this regard during the last three years is indicated below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Year 2005 | – | 19 |
| Year 2006 | – | 65 |
| Year 2007(till August) | – | 89 |
| TOTAL: | – | 173 |

**University for NRIs**

2543. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed NRI university and its location;

(b) the details of the applications received in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has given a proposal to set up the University in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) A policy framework for setting up a PIO/NRI University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government. Salient features of the proposed University are given in the Statement (*See* below). 16 proposals have been received